

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims in the manner indicated.

1. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
 - a processor to respond to an event-driven action; and
 - a driver coupled to said processor to perform a program function when an indication of the event-driven action is received from said processor, said driver to control a response to the event-driven action external to a system management mode of said processor.
2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said processor responds to an event-driven action from an input/output device.
3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said processor responds to an event-driven action from an input/output device to perform a control action on a device.
4. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said processor responds to an event-driven action from an input/output device to perform a control action on a device which may be simultaneous controlled by system firmware and software device driver.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said processor responds to a hot-key action to perform a control action operation on a device altering it's current state or setting.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said processor responds to a hot-key action to perform a control action with the co-operation of both system firmware management and operating system device driver management for the benefit of consistent behavior within an operating system environment.

7. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

a controller to receive an indication of an event-driven action from system firmware when the event-driven action occurs and to generate a signal in response to the received indication; and

a device driver coupled to said controller to perform a program function in response to the signal to control an operation to alter the device's current state, in which the program function performs the control action external to a system management mode of the processor firmware.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said controller includes an interrupt generation logic to generate an interrupt as the signal in response to a hot-key event-driven action.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said driver includes an interrupt service routine to process the interrupt and acquire control to perform the control action.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said driver sets a first flag to acquire control of said controller to perform the control action.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said driver sets a second flag to indicate to said controller that the control action is completed.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said controller is interrogated periodically to determine if the second flag is set and if the second flag is set, completing the hot-key event-driven action.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said controller is a graphics controller with a multiplicity of displays outputs, in which the hot-key event-driven action initiates a display switch from one of the displays to another display.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said controller also includes a basic input output system, BIOS, programming to allow the management mode of the firmware to control the switching and in which a programmed selection determines if said driver or the BIOS programming controls the switch.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said controller is a graphics controller and includes a video basic input output system, BIOS, programming to allow the management mode of the firmware to control the switching and in which a programmed selection determines if said driver or the video BIOS programming controls the switch between a first and second display devices.

16. (currently amended) A driver comprising:

a first routine to receive a signal in response to an indication of an event-driven action from a processor firmware when the event-driven action occurs; and

a second routine to control an operation to switch a program function from supporting a first device to support a second device, in which the driver's program function performs the switch external to a system management mode of the processor firmware.

17. (original) The driver of claim 16 wherein the driver supports a variety of input/output, I/O, devices and the driver performs the control action on the devices.

18. (original) The driver of claim 16 wherein the driver supports a variety of display devices and the driver performs the switch from a first display device to any other display device.

19. (original) The driver of claim 18 wherein the first routine receives an interrupt in response to the indication of an event-driven action from a processor firmware and generates a flag to obtain control from a controller for the display switch.

20. (currently amended) A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform operations comprising:

processing a signal in response to an indication of an event-driven action from a processor firmware when the event-driven action occurs; and

performing a routine to control an operation to switch a program function from supporting a first device to support a second device, in which the routine performs the switch external to a system management mode of the processor firmware.

21. (original) The machine-readable medium of claim 20 further including an instruction to set a flag to a controller to indicate that the routine is prepared to perform the switch.

22. (original) The machine-readable medium of claim 20 further including an instruction to set a flag to a controller to indicate that the routine has completed the switch.

23. (currently amended) A method comprising:

generating an indication of an event-driven action to perform some action on a device ;

responding to the indication to handle the event-driven action external to a system management mode of system firmware;

handling the device switch external to the system management mode of a processor firmware by having a driver handle the control action; and

returning control from the driver at completion of the device switch.

24. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the handling of the device switch by the driver includes switching from one display device to another display device.

25. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the handling of the display image fitting or image centering by the driver includes adjusting a device setting.

26. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the handling of the display brightness by the driver includes adjusting the brightness of the display.

27. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein handling of the device control is in response to receiving an interrupt, upon which the driver performs the control action.

28. (original) A computer system comprising:

 a system firmware including a basic input output system, BIOS, programming to detect an event-driven action;

 a controller to receive an indication from said processor firmware of an event-driven action when the event-driven action occurs and to generate a signal in response to the received indication; and

 a driver coupled to said controller to perform a program function in response to the signal to control an operation to control aspects of the device, in which the program function performs the operation external to system management mode of said processor firmware.

29. (original) The computer system of claim 28 wherein said controller is a graphics controller and a switching action is initiated between a plurality of attached display devices.
30. (original) The computer system of claim 28 wherein the event-driven action is a hot-key action.